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Weinberger Likely to Get Key Position

But Aides to Reagan Say Choices Remain

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LOS ANGELES — Caspar Weinberger will be named to one of the big three positions — state, defense or Treasury — in the Reagan Cabinet, according to Reagan sources here.

"Once Weinberger's slot is known, the rest of the nominations will be easier to figure out," said a source close to President-elect Ronald Reagan.

Weinberger, who got the nickname "Cap the Knife" while working on the budget for the Nixon administration, is serving as Reagan's chief budget-cutter with responsibility for recommending cuts that would hold the fiscal 1981 budget to no more than \$620 billion.

Treasury secretary would be the logical position for that work, but there are persistent reports that he will go to state or the Pentagon.

If Weinberger were to become Treasury secretary, the way would be clear for retired Gen. Alexander Haig or Reagan campaign chief William J. Casey to become secretary of state and for either former Texas Gov. John B. Connally or former Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld to take over at the Pentagon. Casey also is seen as a front-runner for CIA director.

There also is speculation here that economist Alan Greenspan no longer is in contention for a Cabinet post.

Reagan sources report that a new name has been added to the list of leading contenders for Cabinet nomination: W. Malcolm Baldrige, chairman of Scoville Industries of Waterbury, Conn. He is said to be in good position for a Cabinet post, perhaps secretary of commerce. Baldrige was chairman of the Connecticut Reagan-Bush committee and co-chairman of Connecticut Citizens for Nixon and Agnew. He also is a member of the National Republican Finance Committee.

Reagan sources also say that Rep. David Stockman, R-Mich., is likely to be named either secretary of energy or director of the Office of Management and Budget.

California attorney William French Smith, who headed Reagan's committee to seek talent for the top government posts, probably could be attorney general if he wants the job, Reagan aides say, but some believe the nomination may go to California Superior Court Judge William Clark. These sources believe Smith, who is Reagan's attorney, may wish to stay in California.

Reagan has decided on more than half the Cabinet nominees, but the names are not being made public until after Reagan and his closest aides have conferred with the president-elect's first choices.

It appears that Reagan is not likely to make public any of his Cabinet selections at least until Friday, when transition director Edwin Meese is scheduled to arrive here for discussions on personnel and policy matters.

Three potential Cabinet choices have asked that their names be removed from consideration. They are William E. Simon, George Shultz and Anne Armstrong.

Until the Cabinet offices are chosen, there are not likely to be any final decisions on the sub-cabinet positions because Reagan wants the new cabinet members to have a voice in choosing the assistants and deputies with whom they will be working.

Reagan is to fly east Monday for several days, first to New York and then to Washington. Reagan advisers believe most of the Cabinet will have been made public by the time Reagan completes his second post-election Washington visit Dec. 13.